

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by  
5 changing Section 12-4.13b as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/12-4.13b)

7 Sec. 12-4.13b. College student eligibility for  
8 supplemental nutrition assistance benefits.

9 (a) For the purposes of Section 273.5(b)(11)(ii) of Title  
10 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, a career and technical  
11 educational program offered at a community college and  
12 approved by the Illinois Community College Board that could be  
13 a component of a SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program,  
14 as identified by the Department of Human Services, shall be  
15 considered an employment and training program under Section  
16 273.7 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, unless  
17 prohibited by federal law.

18 (a-5)(1) For the purposes of Section 273.5(b)(11)(iv) of  
19 Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, any undergraduate  
20 program of study that serves low-income students at a public  
21 institution of higher education improves employability and  
22 shall be considered equivalent to an acceptable SNAP E&T  
23 program component under Section 273.7(e) of Title 7 of the

1 Code of Federal Regulations beginning March 1, 2028, unless  
2 prohibited by federal law. As used in this subsection, "public  
3 institution of higher education" has the meaning ascribed to  
4 that term in Section 1 of the Board of Higher Education Act.

5 (2) On or before January 1, 2028, and every year  
6 thereafter, the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the  
7 Illinois Community College Board shall provide to the  
8 Department of Human Services the percentage of students, by  
9 program of study, who received grants under the federal Pell  
10 Grant program and the State's Monetary Award Program (MAP) at  
11 each institution of higher education from which they collect  
12 MAP and Pell recipient data during the most recent academic  
13 year. If any alternative data sources are available to  
14 substantiate that programs of study at public colleges and  
15 universities serve low-income students, that data may also be  
16 provided to the Department of Human Services in lieu of Pell or  
17 MAP data.

18 (3) Unless prohibited by federal law and subject to the  
19 provisions of this paragraph, a graduate program of study at a  
20 public institution of higher education shall be considered  
21 equivalent to an acceptable SNAP E&T program component under  
22 Section 273.7(e) of Title 7 of the Code of Federal  
23 Regulations, for the purposes of Section 273.5(b)(11)(iv) of  
24 Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, if (i) the  
25 institution has provided the Department of Human Services with  
26 the percentage of its students within each program of study

1 during the most recent academic year with an Alternative  
2 Application for Illinois Student Aid or Free Application for  
3 Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) expected family contribution of  
4 zero or other available data on the income status of the  
5 student population by program and (ii) the program of study  
6 serves low-income students. An institution that elects to  
7 provide such data to the Department of Human Services shall do  
8 so on or before January 1 of a given year and every year  
9 thereafter and any programs of study for low-income students  
10 shall be considered equivalent to an acceptable SNAP E&T  
11 program component under Section 273.7(e) of Title 7 of the  
12 Code of Federal Regulation as of March 1 of that year.

13 (4) Beginning March 1, 2028, and every March 1 thereafter,  
14 the Department of Human Services shall publish on its website  
15 an updated list of the programs of study that serve low-income  
16 students by institution of higher education as provided under  
17 this subsection.

18 (b) The Department of Human Services, in consultation with  
19 representatives of the Illinois Community College Board, the  
20 Illinois Student Assistance Commission, the Illinois Workforce  
21 Innovation Board, and advocates for students and SNAP  
22 recipients, shall establish a protocol to identify and verify  
23 all potential exemptions to the eligibility rule described in  
24 Section 273.5(a) of Title 7 of the Code of Federal  
25 Regulations, and to identify and verify a student's  
26 participation in educational programs, including, but not

1 limited to, self-initiated placements, that would exempt a  
2 student from the eligibility rule described in Section  
3 273.5(a) of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations. To the  
4 extent possible, this consultation shall take place through  
5 existing workgroups convened by the Department of Human  
6 Services.

7 (c) If the United States Department of Agriculture  
8 requires federal approval of the exemption designation  
9 established pursuant to subsection (a) and the protocol  
10 established pursuant to subsection (b), the Department of  
11 Human Services shall seek and obtain that approval before  
12 publishing the guidance or regulation required by subsection  
13 (e).

14 (d)(1) This Section does not require the Department of  
15 Human Services to offer a particular component, support  
16 services, or workers' compensation to a college student found  
17 eligible for an exemption pursuant to this Section.

18 (2) This Section does not restrict or require the use of  
19 federal funds for the financing of SNAP E&T programs.

20 (3) This Section does not require an institution of higher  
21 education to verify eligibility for SNAP.

22 (e) The Department of Human Services shall adopt any rules  
23 necessary to implement the provisions of subsections (a),  
24 (a-5), (b), (c), and (d). Rulemaking shall not delay the full  
25 implementation of subsection (a-5).

26 (Source: P.A. 100-620, eff. 7-20-18; 101-560, eff. 8-23-19.)

1           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
2   becoming law.